Read Me

Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
		10.00-11.00	Darwin Talk	10.30-11.30	Astronomy Talk
		11.30-13.00	Book Auction	12.00-13.30	Art Auction
		13.30-14.30	GoH Interview	14.00-15.00	Good Book Hour
		15.00-16.00	Media Panel	15.30-16.30	Book Room Panel
		16.30-17.30	Libel Panel	17.00-18.00	Awards Ceremony
19.00-19.30	Opening Ceremony	18.00-19.00	Nova Debate	19.00-	Beer Tasting
19.30-20.30	Room 101	19.30-20.30	Genre v. General Panel		
21.00-22.00	Book Launch Party	21.00-22.00	Steve Green's Taff Report		
22.30-00.00	Charades	22.30-00.30	SF Film Quiz		

The Programme

Friday

19.00-19.30 Opening Ceremony
Meet the committee and our Guest of Honour, find out what treats are in store for you over the weekend, and find out how to volunteer your services.

19.30 – 20.30 Room 101
Guest of Honour Justina Robson reveals her arch dislikes to host Steve Green in our version of the popular TV show.

21.00 – 22.00 Book Launch Party
Join us in celebrating the launch of Justina's new book *Chasing the Dragon*. Come and be one of the first people to own a copy. Free wine and nibbles.

22.30 – 00.00 Charades
Come and help wind up our first evening with a bit of physical silliness. All welcome, no previous experience required.

Saturday

10.00 – 11.00 Yours Sincerely, Charles Darwin: Public Scientist, Private Man.
From his voyage round the world on HMS Beagle, to his last research on earthworms, Charles Darwin left a remarkable record of his life and work, his hopes, dreams, and fears - and even what made

him laugh - in a collection of private letters and papers. Dr. Alison Pearn, Assistant Director of the Darwin Correspondence Project, gives us a unique and private insight into the man who was credited with changing the way we see the world (and reveals whether he really did bear any resemblance to Paul Bettany...)

11.30 – 13.00 Book Auction
Rog Peyton and Chris Morgan will help you expand your extensive book collection with some second hand but well loved bargains.

13.30 – 14.30 Guest of Honour Interview
Come and get to know Justina our Guest of Honour. Interviewed by Pauline Morgan.

15.00 – 16.00 Well Written, Popular…and Cancelled
Why do so many drama and especially sf shows get cancelled (Firefly, Sarah Connor, Primeval…) despite their apparent popularity, while others like Stargate just go on and on? And are there any implications of ITV's recently stated policy of having no serious drama before the watershed, in favour of the reality/talent shows that we all love to bits? Alice Lawson moderates, with Tony Berry, Steve Green, Tony Keene and Mark Slater

16.30 – 17.30 Fair Comment or Fair Cop
Helena Bowles leads a discussion looking at the recent libel actions that have been bought against Ben Goldacre and Simon Singh and considers their implications for stifling scientific debate. Joining her are Simon Bradshaw, Peter Harrow, Tim Stannard and Charlie Stross.

18.00 – 19.00 Is it All Over for the Nova?
Just how relevant are the Nova awards to fandom today. Current administrator Steve Green leads the discussion with Claire Brialey, Greg Pickersgill and Rog Peyton

19.30 – 20.30 Genre Fiction Versus General Fiction
Which do we prefer, which is more successful, and why are some authors (such as our GoH) happy to switch between the two. Julian headlong ponders the issues, along with Tanya Brown, Ian MacLeod, Liam Proven, Mike Shevdon and, naturally, our Guest of Honour.

21.00 – 22.00 Steve Green Reveals All
Steve Green tells us all about his TAFF trip and what he got up to at the Worldcon.

22.30 – 00.30 Science Fiction Film and TV Quiz
The return of the Novacon favourite, but with a new twist for this year. Put together a team and come and show off your knowledge of all that is obscure and bizarre in celluloid. Tony Berry is your question master.

Sunday

10.30 – 11.30 Five Ways to Find a Black Hole
Black holes are the most extreme environments in nature, where the force of gravity is so strong that even light cannot escape. Since we observe the rest of the universe through light, black holes must be

directly unobservable. In the last decade however, technological advances in observational astronomy have made it possible for us to indirectly observe black holes and incontrovertibly prove their existence. Dr. Somak Raychaudhury from the University of Birmingham explains exactly how.

12.00 – 13.30 Art Auction
All that art work you have been salivating over all weekend in the art show, now it can be yours to decorate your lounge. Rog Peyton and Chris Morgan will be banging the gavel.

14.00 – 15.00 Good Book Hour
Bring along your favourite book, and one new (or newish) book from the last couple of years which you've really enjoyed, and talk about them for three minutes each. Hosted by our Guest of Honour, with generous slices of cake to all participants.

15.30 – 16.30 Whither the Book Room
With fewer booksellers coming to UK conventions, is the book room still vital to the overall convention experience. If the day comes when there are no more booksellers at conventions, what will we have lost? Caroline Mullan leads the debate, in an item that is allied a series of smaller syndicate room based discussions on Saturday (see below)

17.00 – 18.00 Awards Ceremony
Its time to say a big thank you to all those who made it possible, give out lots of fabulous gifts and prizes, and award the Novas.

19.00 – Late Beer and Food Tasting
It's not quite over yet. Come and sample some Italian food and interesting beer and soft drinks and kick back with all the people with no homes to go to (or at least had the foresight to book Monday off work). Entry ticket required, available at the Registration Desk throughout the weekend for a small fee or in exchange for three bottles of your favourite beer.

Extra Off Piste Items (aren't we good to you)…

Whither the Book Room
As a lead in to the main Sunday slot, Caroline Mullan leads two syndicate room based debates on Saturday to explore what the dealers' room means to us and conventions, and what we want from it in 21st century fandom.

Book Launch 2
Be in the downstairs bar on Saturday morning for the launch of Dave Hutchinson's new book, *The Push*. Come along, have a drink, buy a book, get it signed. Simple.

Kaffeeklatsch Sessions
Ian MacLeod, Ian Watson and our Guest of Honour have all very kindly agreed to lead kaffeeklatsch sessions over the weekend. Look out for the announcements on the day.

NOVACON REGISTRATION

This is in the business office in the main foyer. It will be open:

Friday:	16.00 – 18.30 and 19.30 – 22.00 for N39 registrations only
Saturday:	10.00 – 13.30 and 14.30 – 18.00 for all Novacon business
Sunday:	10.00 – 16.00 for all Novacon business

DEALERS' ROOM

This is in the Churchill Suite, which is next to the main bar. It will be open from 16.00 – 18.45 Friday, 10.00 – 13.15 and 14.30 – 18.00 Saturday and 10.00 – 16.00 Sunday. No food or drink in the room please (unless you're a dealer!)

MEETING ROOMS

All the small meeting rooms are located together downstairs. These will house the Artshow, Dave Lally's programme, secure ops store, CDROM artshow, children's room and a room for smaller programme items.

DAVE LALLY'S PROGRAMME

In addition to the main programme, Dave Lally will be running his usual box of delights from 16.00 Friday until Sunday afternoon. This will take place in one of the meeting rooms downstairs. See flipchart outside the room for a list of what's on.

ART SHOW

This is in meeting room 2. It is open from 10.00 – 18.00 Saturday and 10.00 – 11.30 Sunday. No food or drink in the room please.

OPERATIONS

We'll probably be hanging out around the business centre in main reception, but there will be a secure ops store in meeting room 6 which will be used to keep any books you have for the auction, Sunday evening beer, coats and bags (at the owner's risk) and various other stuff. If you

want to leave anything here, speak to the convention Duty Manager (who will be wearing a subtle red waistcoat). If you have volunteered to be a GOPHER, come and find Chris Murphy or any committee member and we'll sort you out. There are rewards!

FOOD AND DRINK

All convention food will be served in the Savoy Grill Restaurant behind the main bar on the ground floor. Except Friday evening – see below.
Friday: Dinner 18.30 – 22.00. Selection of hot and cold food, such as pizza, burger and chips, baked potato, vegetarian option, salad. Main dish £4.95. Because this meal is not so well-attended, the hotel may take orders across the bar.

Late night: bacon/sausage/chip butties £2.00

Saturday: Breakfast 7.30 – 10.30
Lunch: 12.30 – 14.30. Selection of hot and cold food as above
Dinner: 18.00 – 22.00
Late night: Butties

Sunday: Breakfast 7.30 – 10.30
Lunch: 12.30 – 14.30
Late night: Butties

The regular bar menu will also be available throughout the weekend. If you want a sit-down meal in the restaurant using the regular hotel menu, can you please **reserve a table,** especially for Saturday evening.

Snacks such as crisps, chocolate and sandwiches/baguettes (£2.50) will be available from the bar
10.00 – 23.00.

THE MAIN BAR is the Savoy on the ground floor and is open from 10.30 until we're all tired.

THE DOWNSTAIRS BAR is available for use as lounge area. It will not be serving drinks, but is really easy to get to as the lift opens directly into it. Comfy chairs! Pool table!

LEISURE FACILITIES

We have full use of the leisure club which has a pool, sauna and gym. Access for disabled guests is through the main club entrance outside, reached from the bar.

Please note: the pool runs some adults-only swim sessions. These are: Friday 19.00 – 21.30; Saturday 13.00 – 15.00, 19.00 – 20.00; Sunday 15.00 – 17.00, 19.00 – 20.00.

SUNDAY EVENING BEER TASTING AND FOOD

We continue the tradition of having a winding-down event in the shape of the famous beer-tasting and meal. We will be providing some beer, but rely on you to bring the more interesting stuff. A minimum of 3 bottles will get you a place at the bar, or buy a badge from registration for £5. The beer tasting starts at 19.30 in the Churchill Suite. At 20.00 the food will be served, this year with an Italian theme as chosen by our GoH. The food is by **ticket only.** These are on sale from registration and cost £10. YOU MUST BUY YOUR FOOD TICKET BY 11.00 SUNDAY MORNING.

A selection of **soft drinks** will be available free to everyone.

BADGES

The hotel bar and leisure club are open to the public and so there may be non-convention people in the hotel. Please wear your badge at all times, or you will be refused entry to the artshow and dealers' room, as well as being turned away from the con food. This is also a matter of security – we want to know who's who! Don't make us unleash the attack-gerbils.

DIRE WARNINGS
The Park Inn is in the business of selling accommodation, food and drink. Neither the hotel nor the Novacon committee approve of members crashing in rooms or bringing in their own supplies, so don't do it. Remember this is a no-smoking hotel, and if you light up on the premises, they can ask you to leave.

LEFT LUGGAGE
This can be left in the secure Ops store downstairs. Find a committee member to let you in.

RNIB RAFFLE
As usual we will be running a raffle throughout the convention, with proceeds going to the RNIB Talking Books for the Blind. Someone will wave a book of tickets at you at some point.

OUTSIDE

If you venture outside the hotel (which you won't of course, because the convention is just too much fun) there is pretty well all you could need nearby. The big pub over the road is in fact a hologram, so I wouldn't bother going there. Keep on that side of the road and there is a bank with a cashpoint, various shops, newsagent and supermarket with basic medicines. If you need an actual pharmacy there is a Boots about half a mile away - ask reception. And of course there's the Tin Tin shop.

If you want to do the tourist bit then apparently there's a local legend about some bloke in green tights; sounds dodgy to me. Besides that there is the famous Olde Trip To Jerusalem Inn, which is the oldest boozer in England, dating back to 1189AD. Yes it is and I don't care what anyone else says. Been there many times, but not since they refurbished it and opened up more long-buried parts. Worth a visit as it's partially built into the cliffs beneath the castle, but it is very popular and can get crowded.

RESTAURANTS

Stand in front of the mirror and repeat: "I will stay in the con, I will stay in the con, I will stay…."

There are of course plenty of restaurants in Nottingham, but we haven't actually tried any. I did when I used to live here, but that was 20 years ago and they may have gone downhill. Here is a selection of eateries in the city centre taken from www.godine.co.uk They all get pretty good ratings and I would advise you to book. Or you could just go downtown and wander; I'm sure you'll find somewhere!

Tamatanga (Indian) 01159-940-174	The Cornerhouse, Trinity Square, NG1.
Eviva Taverna (Greek) 01159-940-784	Gothic House, Barker St. NG1.
The Cumin (Indian) 01159-940-993	62 Maid Marian Way, NG1.
Strada (Italian) 01159-940-926	The Corner House, Trinity Row, NG1.
Mogal-E-Azam (Indian) 01159-940-628	7 Goldsmith St. NG1.
Yamas (Greek) 01159-940-942	5 Thurland St. NG1
Laguna (Indian) 01159-940-824	43 Mount St. NG1.
City Spice (Indian) 01159-940-831	7 Thurland St. NG1.

Le Mistral (French) 01159-940-867	Eldon Chambers, Wheeler Gate, NG1.
Pretty Orchid (Thai) 01159-940-912	12 Pepper St. NG1.
Curry Lounge (Indian) 01159-940-843	110 Upper Parliament St. NG1.
Chutney (Indian) 01159-940-883	41 Friar Ln. NG1.

I've listed more Indian restaurants because I know you like your curry. Ah, yes, I knew I'd miss something about Walsall.

Produced by Tony Berry for Novacon 39. Any mistakes are my own, but blame Ian Sorensen.